

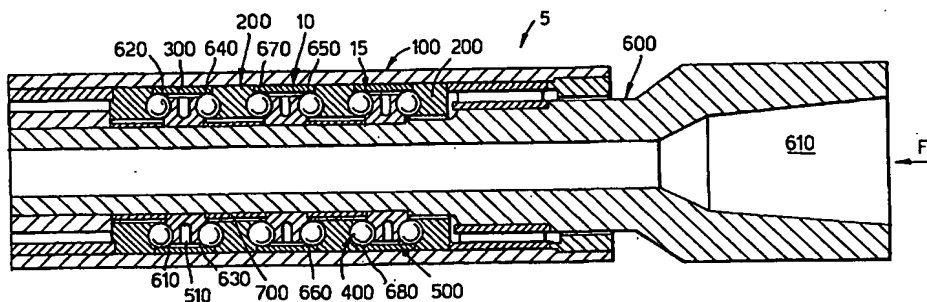
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : E21B 4/00, F16C 27/08, 35/06	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/46478
		(43) International Publication Date: 10 August 2000 (10.08.00)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/00314</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 3 February 2000 (03.02.00)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 9902253.5 3 February 1999 (03.02.99) GB</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ROTECH HOLDINGS LIMITED [GB/GB]; Whitemyres Avenue, Mastrick Industrial Estate, Aberdeen AB2 6HQ (GB).</p> <p>(72) Inventor; and</p> <p>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SUSMAN, Hector, Phillipus [GB/GB]; Alexander Van Drentham, 9 Craigston Gardens, Westhill Estate, Aberdeen AB32 6NL (GB).</p> <p>(74) Agents: McCALLUM, William, Potter et al.; Cruikshank & Fairweather, 19 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow G1 3AE (GB).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published</p> <p><i>With international search report.</i></p> <p><i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>

(54) Title: THRUST BEARING FOR DOWN-HOLE TOOL



(57) Abstract

There is disclosed an improved bearing and particularly an improved bearing assembly (15, 15A), eg. a thrust bearing assembly, which may be used in down-hole applications, such as down-hole drilling applications. Thrust bearing assemblies for use in down-hole applications have the conflicting requirements of a thick shaft assembly and high axial load bearing capacity in a small crosssection. The invention, therefore, provides: a bearing assembly (15, 15A) having at least two bearing elements (400, 400A) spaced by a first body (500, 500A), the first body (500, 500A) having means for flexing. Thus when a load is applied to the bearing assembly (15, 15A) the first body (500, 500A) is caused to flex. In an embodiment the flexing means comprise at least one circumferential groove or notch (510, 510A) formed on the first body (500, 500A).

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